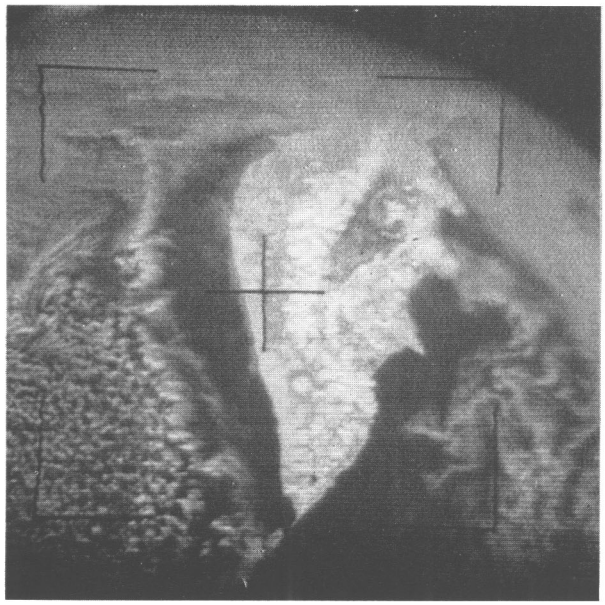
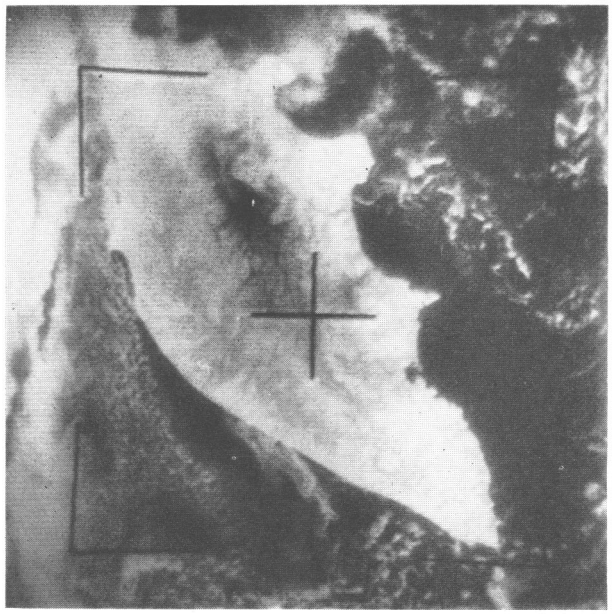
PICTURE OF THE MONTH

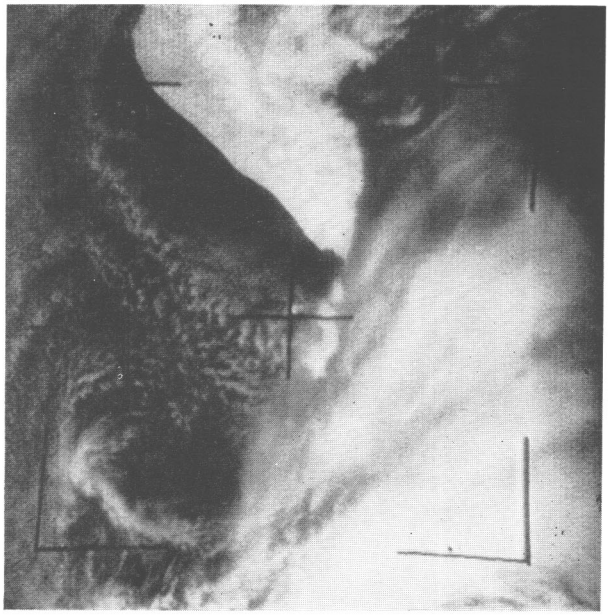


(a) Pass 3114/3114, Camera 1, frame 1, 0134 GMT, January 16, 1964.

(b) Pass 4378/4372, Camera 1, frame 20, 0402 GMT, April 10, 1964.



(c) Pass 4509/4503, Camera 2, frame 30, 0042 GMT, April 19, 1964.



(d) Pass 4524/4518, Camera 2, frame 28, 0104 GMT, April 20, 1964.

These four TIROS VII photographs show the snow-covered Kamchatka Peninsula on different days under relatively clear conditions. The comparatively dark area near the center of the peninsula is a low-lying valley. Mountain ranges lie on either side of the dark area, roughly parallel to the coasts; that these appear as relatively brighter topographic features is presumably due to the greater snow depth and lesser vegetation at the higher elevations.

Differences in the over-water cloudiness are apparent. The clear zones paralleling the west coast in (a) and (d) occurred with light northeasterly flow in the lower levels. Downslope motion away from the elevated interior would accompany such flow. Convective cloudiness appears farther offshore. Still farther offshore, in each picture, there appears to be at least one small eddy.

In (b) there is a narrow band of cloud lying parallel to the west coast and just offshore, while farther offshore the skies are clear. This unexplained feature coexisted with weak winds and a surface ridge of high pressure oriented north-south over the same area. The clouds considerably west of the peninsula appear to be bands and streamers of cirrus, oriented north-northwest–south-southeast.

The heavy cloudiness south of Kamchatka in (d) was associated with a deepening cyclone, the center of which lay just outside the pictured area. The northern fringes of this middle or higher cloudiness are relatively thinner and are partially transparent. The snow-covered islands lying immediately south of the peninsula are not obscured by these clouds.